9: Thomas T-5 (1951-1955)1959
FX10 Bushmen FX10
Kgalagadi FV4

B 136 dangerous for us there, so we withdrew. We should have loved to see them, and we were sorry to leave their patch of bush.

K 131 We looked in the open ground near the lions' thicket for 361 signs of Bushmen, but we found none, so we went on over the flat plains and the next day we came to a long dip in the country, forested with small trees, the last place, said Theunis, where anyone except Bushmen lived. It was the rainy-season K village of a few Bakalaharis, a Bantu people who years ago 221 lost all their cattle and went into the desert, where they live a life very much like the life of Bushmen except that they raise goats. During the rains they graze their goats at little posts of theirs, far away in the veld. We set off toward the village, planning to ask the people there if they knew of Bushmen K farther on, but as we went over the ridge and down into the 166 valley we came upon all the villagers walking toward us, driv- 484 ing donkeys and herds of goats, a surprising sight in that lonely country. There were about sixty people in all, tall, K [141 dark-skinned Bakalahari men carrying bows and arrows, fol- 482] lowed by their women, who carried heavy bundles on their backs, supported by tumplines around their foreheads, which made their eyes bulge and their lower jaws stick out. Among B [357 them walked their Bushman servants, old wrinkled men and 482] women, young girls with their babies, lithe young hunters, 854] small, light-skinned, all carrying great loads of household goods belonging to the Bakalaharis, with the youngest Bushman children riding on top of the loads. Some of the Bush- K [492] man boys were driving herds of goats, some of the older Bushman women drove herds of scrubby gray donkeys which were also heavily loaded with bundles of hides, sticks used to build K houses, bags of belongings, and baby goats too young to walk. 484 We were surprised to see them and we stopped. Some of